

DETAILED ACTION

This office action is response to the proposed amendment in which 1-3, 5-7, and 12 are presented for examination. Claims 8-9 and 11 are cancelled.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with applicant's representative Roland E. Long, Jr. on August 2, 2010.

Amendment to the Claims

2. The application has been amendment in the claims as follows:

Cancel claim 8.

Cancel claim 9.

Cancel claim 11.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 1-3, 5-7, and 12 are allowed.

Reasons for Allowance

4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

As to independent claim 1 the prior art of records (US 2004/0235521 A1 and US 2003/0177098 A1) alone or in combination fail to anticipate or render obvious the claimed feature:

"each item of digital media having (a) an allocated license number and (b) a user agent associated with the item of digital media, each user agent programmed to (i) initialize and control the loading of the digital media, (ii) control the operation of the item of digital media, (iii) broadcast network data packets containing the allocated license number information of the digital media loaded by that user agent to the network environment, and (iv) detect network data packets containing license number information of other digital media broadcast by other user agents in others of said computers on the network environment..."

when the detected license number is identical to the license number of the digital media being initialized by the user agent, the user agent (a) preventing initialization of the digital media continuing on that computer, and (b) broadcasting to the network

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environment a packet with the target being another computer running a user agent associated with the same digital media license number and with content of the broadcast network packet containing a "halt" command, receiving the "halt" command in the other computer which had broadcast the same license number, and causing the other computer to shut down the associated digital media instance.....

at the initialization of the digital media having the allocated license number and installed with the user agent on one of said computers, the user agent i) detects no packets or detects a packet and the detected license number associated therewith is not identical to the license number of the digital media being initialized by the user agent, allowing digital media initialization by the user agent"

Claims 2, 3, 5-7 and 12 are also allowed by virtue of their dependency on the base claim 1.

Conclusion

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to MAHFUZUR RAHMAN whose telephone number is (571)270-7638. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday thru Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Taghi Arani can be reached on (571) - 272-3787. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/M. R./

Examiner, Art Unit 2438